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EXAMINER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 28

Application Number: 09/082,127
Filing Date: 5/20/1998
Appellant(s): Takenori Idehara

Brian E. Harris
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

MAILED
AUG 13 2003
Technology Center 2600

This is in response to appellant's brief on appeal filed 5/27/2003.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

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A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

Appellant's brief includes a statement that claims 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19-22, 25, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, 37-41, 56, 58 and 59 do not stand or fall together and provides reasons as set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(c)(7) and (c)(8).

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

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(9) *Prior Art of Record*

The following is a listing of the prior art of record relied upon in the rejection of claims under appeal.

5,809,265	Blair et al	9-1998
5,996,029	Sugiyama et al	11-1999
Jackson et al "Methodology for Automated Printed Selection" IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, vol. 36, no. 09B (September 1993) pp. 379.		

(10) *Grounds of Rejection*

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 9, 11, 12, 19-22, 25, 27, 33, 37-41, 56, 58, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Blair et al (U.S. Patent # 5,809,265).

Regarding claims 9, 25, 33, and 37: Blair teaches a machine readable medium (memory of workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, line 33-38) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (plotters, faxes, modems, column 3, lines 50-51) connected to a network, (column 3, line 48) the program comprising: a first display step for classifying the input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories (column 2, lines 54-55, set of device, column 5, lines 19-21) with different functions, (e.g., facsimile, modem, etc., column 2, lines 54-55) and displaying the categories (GUI, column 2, lines 40-67) on a display as items to be selected; a second display step (displaying the set of devices that are connected by a line, column 5, lines 15-25) for displaying on the display as items

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to be selected only the input-output apparatuses (102, fig. 6, column 5, lines 1-40) classified in a category selected by a user (column 5, line 30), and an apparatus specifying means (mouse, column 5, lines 1-10) for selecting a desired one of the input-output apparatuses displayed at the apparatus displaying step and for specifying as an input-output destination the selected input-output apparatus (abstract, column 5, lines 10-40)

Regarding claim 11: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display a map of the network (fig. 6) with symbolic marks (LJ2, fig.6) of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the input-output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 12: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further includes a step for setting as an apparatus to be used one of said input-output apparatuses represented by one of the symbolic marks as selected by a user (column 5, lines 20-35).

Regarding claims 19, 27: Blair et al. teach a machine readable medium (memory of workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, lines 33-38, and column 5, lines 35-36) for selecting a desired image forming apparatus from a plurality of image forming apparatuses (printers, 102, 104, column 3, lines 45-50) connected to a network, (column 3, line 48) the program comprising: a select step for selecting as an output destination one of the image forming apparatuses designated by a user; (user select LJ2, column 5, line 24) a judgment step for judging whether or not the image forming apparatus set at the select step is capable of carrying out printing; (column 5, lines 34-38) and a display step (fig. 7) for displaying on a

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display, when an outcome of the judgement formed at the judgement step indicates that the image forming apparatus set at the select step is not capable of carrying out printing, (fig. 7, column 5, lines 15-42), installation locations of the image forming apparatuses (additional active connections, column 5, lines 35-40) which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute (column 5, lines 34-38) for the image forming apparatus set at the select step.

Regarding claim 20: Blair et al. teach wherein the display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on the display a map of the network (fig. 7) with symbolic marks (LJ2, 4Si, fig. 7) of the image forming apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the image forming apparatus.

Regarding claim 21: Blair et al. teach a step for setting as an output destination an image forming apparatus represented by a corresponding one of the symbolic marks (LJ2, fig. 7) selected by the user (abstract, column 5, lines 1-10).

Regarding claim 22: Blair et al. teach a sub-step for displaying on the display characters (LJ2, fig. 7) describing the name of each of said image forming apparatuses and characters describing a location (foothill 2/2, fig. 7) at which each of the image forming apparatuses is installed.

Regarding claims 38 and 41: Blair et al. teach a machine readable medium (memory of workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, line 33-38) for a network system (column 3, line 48) connecting a plurality of computers and a plurality of input-output apparatuses, (fig. 1) the program comprises: a user name (118, column 4, lines 54-

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67) displaying step for displaying as items of selection the names of users (the name of the system located in foothill 2/2) regularly using the network system; (118 regularly using the network for communication), a user name selecting step for selecting one of the names displayed at the user name displaying step; (fig. 5, column 4, lines 45-67) an input-output apparatus displaying step (fig. 6) for displaying as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses (LJ2, 4si, fig. 6) associated with one of the users (foothill 2/2, fig. 6) with the name thereof selected at user name selecting step; and an input-output apparatus selecting step for selecting as an input-output destination a desired one of the input-output apparatuses displayed at the input-output apparatus displaying step (abstract, column 5, lines 10-40).

Regarding claim 39: Blair et al. teach wherein the user name displaying step further includes a sub-step for displaying the names of the (foothill 2/2, fig. 6) users on a layout diagram along with icons (LJ2, 4si, fig. 6) each representing one of the input-output apparatuses.

Regarding claim 40: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further comprises: a step for creating (column 6, lines 7-21) a plurality of images (LJ2, fig. 7) each showing installation locations of the input-output apparatuses on layers of different levels (fig. 5, fig. 6) forming a hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) and storing the hierarchical structure; (column 6, lines 7-20); a step for displaying a high level image (fig. 5) on one of the layers at a high level in, the hierarchical structure wherein the high level image shows items of selection; (column 4, lines 60-63) and a step for displaying a low level image (fig. 6) on another one of the layers at a level immediately lower than the high level in the hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) wherein

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the low level image (fig. 6) is determined by an item selected (118, column 4, line 62) from the items of selection shown in the high level image.

Regarding claim 56: Blair et al. teach a program (114, column 4, lines 33-38) that can be read by a computer (column 4, line 36) which has a computer execute the steps of: selecting a first printer, (LJ2, column 6, line 24) as an output destination of image data, from among a plurality of printers (fig. 6) connected to a network; (column 5, line 2) determining whether the first printer is currently available or not; (column 5, lines 35-38) and selecting a second printer (secondary device, column 5, line 37) automatically, (column 5, lines 5-10, column 16, lines 1-8) from a plurality of printers (fig. 6) connected to a network, (column 5, line 2) as a substitute output apparatus (column 5, lines 25-34) in response to the determination that the first printer is not available (column 5, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 58: Blair et al. teach wherein the second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus exceeds the first printer in function (see higher speed printer, column 5, lines 25-30).

Regarding claim 59: Blair et al. teach wherein the second printer selected as a substitute output apparatus exceeds the first printer in printing speed (see higher speed printer, column 5, lines 25-30).

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Claims 14, 16, 17, 26, 34, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al. (U.S. Patent 5,809,265) in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993).

Regarding claims 14, 26: Blair et al. teaches a machine readable medium (memory of workstation, column 3, line 54) on which is recorded a program (114, column 4, lines 33-38) for selecting a desired input-output apparatus from a plurality of input-output apparatuses (printers 102, 104, column 3, lines 45-50) connected to a network, (column 3, line 48) the program comprising: a first display step for classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories (column 2, lines 53-55, set of devices, column 5, lines 20-25) and for displaying on a display as items of selection the categories; (fig. 4, fig. 5), and a second display step (fig. 6) for displaying on the display as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses (displaying set of devices connected by line 121, column 5, lines 20-25) in a category corresponding to thus displayed categories which is selected by a user.

Blair does not teach that the displayed categories are grouped by different pieces of user identification information (code).

Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993), teaches to classify groups of printers (lines 22-23) into a plurality of categories (nearest available printers according to location of users, lines 17-23) with different pieces of user identification information (user's terminal ID, line 22)

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair's display method to include: displayed categories are grouped by different pieces of user identification information.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair's display method by the teaching of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) because of the following reason(s): it would have allowed a user to fully automate printer selections for selecting the best fit printer, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 28-31; and (b) it would have provided users with feedback regarding the availability of printers to print the selected user identification information, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 6-7.

Regarding claim 16: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on said display a map of the network (fig. 6) with symbolic marks (LJ2, fig.6) of the input-output apparatuses on the map, with each symbolic mark representing an installation location of respective ones of the input-output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Regarding claim 17: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further includes a step for setting as an apparatus to be used one of said input-output apparatuses represented by one of the symbolic marks as selected by a user (column 5, lines 20-35).

Regarding claim 34: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further comprises: a step for displaying on the display a layout (fig. 7) image representing locations of the input-output

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apparatuses; (LJ2, fig. 7) a step for displaying icons (LJ2, fig. 7) as items of selection over the layout image displayed on the display, each icon representing one of the input-output apparatuses at locations corresponding to actual installation locations of the input-output apparatuses; (fig. 7) and a step for selecting as an input-output destination one of the input-output apparatuses represented by an icon selected from the icons (abstract, column 5, lines 10-40).

Regarding claim 35: Blair et al. teach wherein the program further comprises: a step for creating (column 6, lines 7-21) a plurality of images (LJ2, fig. 7) each showing installation locations of the input-output apparatuses on layers of different levels (fig. 5, fig. 6) forming a hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) and storing the hierarchical structure; (column 6, lines 7-20); a step for displaying a high level image (fig. 5) on one of the layers at a high level in, the hierarchical structure wherein the high level image shows items of selection; (column 4, lines 60-63) and a step for displaying a low level image (fig. 6) on another one of the layers at a level immediately lower than the high level in the hierarchical structure (column 4, lines 45-67) wherein the low level image (fig. 6) is determined by an item selected (118, column 4, line 62) from the items of selection shown in the high level image.

Claims 10, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al. as applied to claims 9, 11 above, and further in view of Sugiyama et al (U.S. Patent # 5,996,029).

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Regarding claim 10: Blair does not teach wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's displaying method to include: wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's displaying method by the teaching of Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is not available to print.

Regarding claim 13: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on the display at locations in close proximity to each one of the symbolic marks representing the input output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Blair et al does not teach displaying information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

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Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's display method to include: displaying information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's display method by the teaching of Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is not available to print.

Claims 15, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) as applied to claims 14, 16 above, and further in view of Sugiyama et al (U.S. Patent # 5,996,029).

Regarding claim 15: Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) do not teach wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

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Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method to include: wherein the second display step includes a sub-step for displaying on the display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method by the teaching of Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is not available to print.

Regarding claim 18: Blair et al. teach wherein the second display step further includes a sub-step for displaying on the display at locations in close proximity to each one of the symbolic marks representing the input output apparatuses (fig. 6).

Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) do not teach displaying information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

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Sugiyama teaches to display on a display information indicating whether or not each respective one of the input-output apparatuses is usable (column 75, lines 37-41)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method to include: displaying information indicating whether or not each of the input-output apparatuses is usable.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al. in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993)'s display method by the teaching of Sugiyama because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have informed the user of knowing which printers are available for printing; and (b) it would have prevented the user from selecting a printer that is not available to print.

Claims 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al. (U.S. Patent 5,809,265) as applied to claim 56 above and further in view of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993).

Regarding claim 57: Blair et al. do not teach wherein the second printer selected is located in closest proximity to the user.

Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) teach to select a printer that is located in closest proximity to the user for printing (lines 15-27)

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's output apparatus selection method to include: the second printer selected is located in closest proximity to the user.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair et al's output apparatus selection method by the teaching of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) because of the following reason(s): (a) it would have prevented users from selecting an incorrect printer located far away and thereby, preventing the creation of a barrier and inconvenience to the user, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 6-14; and (b) it would have allowed a user to select the best capable printer as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 28-31.

(11) *Response to Argument*

Appellant, on bottom of page 10, brief, argues that Blair's system displays devices, not displays categories of devices.

In response: Column 2, lines 50-60, Blair, teaches to display buttons representing different categories of devices. For example, a button of a printer represents a device, that a user would select, belongs to the categories of printer family. A button of a facsimile machine represents a device, that a user would select, belongs to the category of facsimile machine

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family. A button of a storage device represents a device belongs to a storage family.

Therefore, Blair teaches displaying categories of devices.

Appellant, on bottom of page 10, brief, argues that Blair system does not display only certain devices that are in a category selected by a user.

In response: “display only certain devices that are in a category selected by a user” is not a claimed limitation.

The limitations of claims 9, 25, 33, 37, is claiming “display as items to be selected only the input-output apparatus classified in a category selected by a user.” In other words, claims 9, 25, 33, and 37, is claiming displaying items of input-output devices, users would select only the input-output apparatus that is in a category selected by a user.

Column 5, lines 13-35, Blair, teaches displaying an icon representing the category printer. (Set of output device, column 5, line 14) When a user moves a mouse pointer over the icon, the display displays two items (LJ2 and 4 Si) connected by a line 121. The two items represent only the printers that a user can select (for example, selecting LJ2 or 4 Si, column 5, lines 23-28) that also belongs to the set of printing devices (set of output devices, column 5, line 14) represented by the button (single clicks of the mouse, column 5, line 14) selected by the user.

Appellant, on the bottom of page 11, and page 18, brief, argues that Blair does not teach a judgment is made as to whether the image forming apparatus can carry out printing.

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In response: Column 5, lines 23-28, 34-38, 49-55, Blair, teaches a user sending a print job to a printer located in a remote location, and a Management application such as Saber LAN workstation would allow the user to take a print job from the printer and put it in the queue of the secondary device if the printer is in use. This will eliminate time, cost, and error of relying on human. In order for all this to happen, the system must first determines if the default device is in use so that a user would know the printer is in used and be able to take a print job from the printer and put it in the queue of the secondary device if the printer is in use. Therefore, Blair teaches judgement is made as to whether the image forming apparatus can carry out printing.

Note: If the printer is in use, the printer cannot carry out printing for the print job at the time the print job is sent to the printer; that is the reason why the print job is being put in the queue of the secondary device.

Appellant, on the bottom of 11, and page 18, brief, argues Blair does not teach based on the results of judgment, a display of locations of substitute image forming apparatus is provided or a substitute apparatus is provided.

Claims 19, 27, is claiming displaying, when an outcome of the judgment indicates that the selected image forming apparatus is not capable of printing, installation locations of image forming apparatuses which are capable of carrying out printing to serve as a substitute for the image forming apparatus.

“When” means “during the time.”

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Fig. 7, column 5, lines 12-38, Blair, teaches during the time the default printer is in used, a secondary device, located at, for example, foothill 2/2, (fig. 7) is displayed to the user such that the user would take the print job from the default printer and put it in the queue of the secondary device. (Substitute printer) The reason the print job is being put in the queue of the secondary device is because the default printer is in used. It does not make sense to have a user taking out a print job from the default printer because the default printer is in used and put in another printer that is in used. Therefore, the secondary device is a device that is capable of carrying out printing.

Furthermore, in column 1, lines 65-67, column 2, lines 1-7, Blair, states that Lobiondo, who is having a type of printing system that is to be improved by Blair, teaches automatically scheduling print jobs over a network to printer devices when they are available. The improvement that is required for Lobiondo is to provide a graphical map interface to allow the user to select printers based upon the physical layout of the building. Therefore, Blair's teaches a graphical map interface to allow the user to select printers based upon the physical layout of the building to be used with Lobiondo such that the graphical map interface would allow users scheduling print jobs, based upon the physical layout of the building, over a network to printer devices when they are available.

Even furthermore, the secondary device (printer) is available to be used at any time.
(Column 5, lines 33-34, Blair)

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Claim 56 is claiming to select a second printer automatically, from a plurality of printers connected to a network, as a substitute output apparatus in response to the determination that the first printer is not available.

Blair teaches selecting a second printer automatically (the secondary device is automatically selected as a substitute device for the default printer, by the system, because the system has been programmed to select the secondary device as a substitute for the default printer, column 5, lines 23-34; once the substitute printer is programmed, the programmed substitute printer is the substitute printer in response to all situation-including when the default printer is determined to be in used), from a plurality of printers (e.g., 6 LJ2 printers and 2 4si printers, fig. 7) connected to a network (column 2, line 41), as a substitute output apparatus in response to the determination that the first printer is not available. (Column 5, lines 34-37, in responding to the determining that the default printer is in used, the secondary device is selected by the system to allow users to take the print job from the default printer and put it in the queue for the secondary device)

Appellant, on the top of page 12, brief, argues that Blair does not teach displaying names of users, selecting one of some names, and displaying only input-output devices associated with a name that has been selected from a list of displayed names.

In response: Blair, column 4, lines 45-67, teaches displaying names (e.g., Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge, fig. 4, Foothill 2/2, fig. 5) of wing 118 of map 116. In the map 116, there are a list of names corresponds to different portions of map 116. Each of the names is a user name

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because it identified a user that is using the system. Column 4, lines 61-67, column 5, lines 1-40, fig. 5, fig. 6, Blair further teaches when one of the names (e.g., foothill 2/2, fig. 5) is selected, only the input-output devices (LJ2 and 4 si, fig. 6) associated with the selected name (foothill 2/2, fig. 5) is being displayed.

Appellant, at the middle of page 13, brief, argues that Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge is not a user name.

In response: A user name is a name that would identify a user. Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge is a name that identifies a user. For example, if the owner of the system say “users of Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge must pay ten dollars.” It is very clear who the owner is referring to-the user that is using the system located at Foothill Sierra 2 Bridge.

Appellant, on page 14, and the top of page 15, and the bottom of page 17, brief, argues Blair and Jackson fails to teach displaying pieces of user identification; therefore, Blair and Jackson does not teach displaying input-output apparatus in a category corresponding to the displayed user ID information (user identification code).

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Blair et al. teaches: a first display step for classifying said input-output apparatuses into a plurality of categories (column 2, lines 53-55, set of devices, column 5, lines 20-25) and for

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displaying on a display as items of selection the categories; (fig. 4, fig. 5), and a second display step (fig. 6) for displaying on the display as items of selection only the input-output apparatuses (displaying set of devices connected by line 121, column 5, lines 20-25) in a category corresponding to thus displayed categories which is selected by a user.

Blair does not teach that the displayed categories are grouped by different pieces of user identification information (code).

Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993), teaches to classify groups of printers (lines 22-23) into a plurality of categories (nearest available printers according to location of users, lines 17-23) with different pieces of user identification information (user's terminal ID, line 22)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair's display method to include: displayed categories are grouped by different pieces of user identification information.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Blair's display method by the teaching of Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) because of the following reason(s): it would have allowed a user to fully automate printer selections for selecting the best fit printer, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 28-31; and (b) it would have provided users with feedback regarding the

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availability of printers to print the selected user identification information, as taught by Jackson et al. (IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 36, No. 09B, September 1993) at lines 6-7.

Note: User ID information and user identification codes are the same thing.

Appellant, on page 15, 16, and top of 17, brief, argues that Blair does not teach classifying input-output apparatus into a plurality of categories having different functions and displaying the categories on a display as item to be selected.

In response: Column 2, lines 50-60, Blair, teaches to display buttons representing different categories of devices. For example, a button of a printer represents a device, that a user would select, belongs to the categories of printer family. A button of a facsimile machine represents a device, that a user would select, belongs to the category of facsimile machine family. A button of a storage device represents a device belongs to a storage family. The action of displaying the different categories of devices having different functions on a display is classifying input-output apparatus into a plurality of categories having different functions.

Furthermore, column 5, lines 13-35, Blair, teaches displaying an icon representing the category printer. When a user moves a mouse pointer over the icon, the display displays two items (LJ2 and 4 Si) connected by a line 121. The two items represent only the printers that a user can select (for example, selecting LJ2 or 4 Si, column 5, lines 23-28) that also belongs to the set of printing devices (set of output devices, column 5, line 14) represented by the button (single clicks of the mouse, column 5, line 14) selected by the user.

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For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

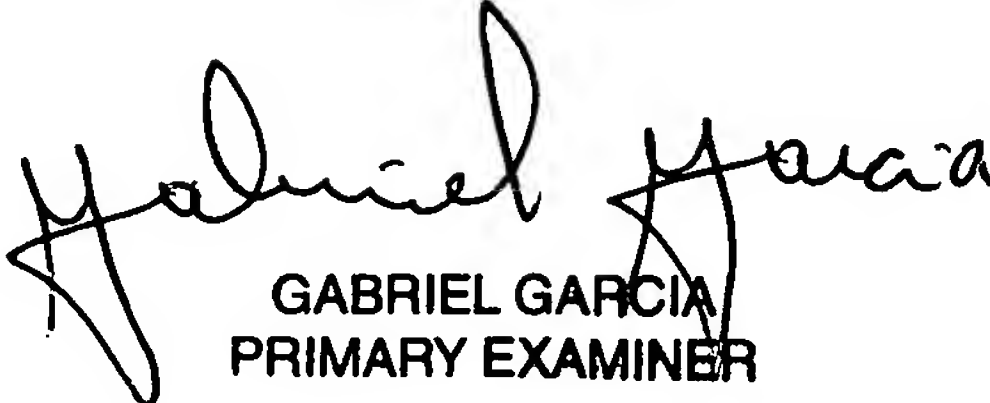
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